

What is claimed is:

1. A method of assessing a fluid distribution of a tested area having a plurality of regions, the method comprising:

providing a urine detection network that includes a plurality of detectors, each having a characteristic that changes responsive to exposure to urine, and wherein the urine detection network has a net characteristic derived from the individual characteristics of the plurality of detectors;

positioning the urine detection network such that each region of the tested area is serviced by a detector of the urine detection network, so that when a region of the tested area is wetted, the characteristic of the detector servicing that region changes, thus changing the net characteristic of the urine detection network;

establishing an information link with the urine detection network;

determining the net characteristic of the urine detection network via the information link; and

deriving the fluid distribution from the net characteristic.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing an information link includes coupling an analyzing module to the urine detection network with an electrical conductor.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein determining the net characteristic includes directly measuring the net characteristic via the electrical conductor.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the information link includes electrically coupling a signal generating module to the urine detection network, wherein the signal generating module is configured to change a characteristic of a generated signal according to the net characteristic of the urine detection network.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein determining the net characteristic includes receiving the generated signal.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the information link includes introducing an energy field within an operative distance of the urine detection network to establish an energy distribution that is predictably influenced by the net characteristic of the urine detection network.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein analyzing the net characteristic includes measuring the energy distribution and interpreting the net characteristic from the measured energy distribution.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising reporting the fluid distribution.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein reporting the fluid distribution includes indicating that a tested area is wetted and that a change is recommended.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein reporting the fluid distribution includes indicating that a tested area is wetted and that a change may be postponed.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein reporting the fluid distribution includes indicating that a tested area is dry and that a change may be postponed.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein reporting the fluid distribution includes indicating a number of dry regions.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising recognizing information received outside of the information link.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein determining the net characteristic includes compensating for information received outside of the information link.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising compensating for interference.

16. A method of assessing a fluid distribution of a tested area having a plurality of regions, the method comprising:

providing a urine detection network that includes a plurality of detectors, each having a characteristic that changes responsive to exposure to urine, and wherein the urine detection network has a net characteristic derived from the individual characteristics of the plurality of detectors;

positioning the urine detection network such that each region of the tested area is serviced by a detector of the urine detection network, so that when a region of the tested area is wetted, the characteristic of the detector servicing that region changes, thus changing the net characteristic of the urine detection network;

introducing an energy field within operative distance of the urine detection network to establish an energy distribution that is predictably influenced by the net characteristic of the urine detection network;

analyzing the measured energy distribution to determine the net characteristic of the urine detection network; and

deriving the fluid distribution from the determined net characteristic.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein analyzing the measured energy distribution includes comparing the measured energy distribution to a reference energy distribution.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein comparing the measured energy distribution to a reference energy distribution includes finding an intersection of the measured energy distribution and the reference energy distribution and looking up a fluid distribution that corresponds to the intersection.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein a frequency of the intersection is used to look up the fluid distribution.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein an angle of the intersection is used to determine a K value.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein an angle of the intersection is considered in determining fluid distribution.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein the reference energy distribution corresponds to an energy distribution unaffected by a urine detection network.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein the reference energy distribution is stored in memory.

24. The method of claim 16, wherein deriving the fluid distribution includes looking up a fluid distribution associated with the determined net characteristic.

25. The method of claim 16, wherein deriving the fluid distribution includes comparing two or more energy distributions, wherein each energy distribution corresponds to a different time.

26. The method of claim 16, wherein deriving the fluid distribution includes finding an intersection of two measured energy distributions and looking up a fluid distribution that corresponds to the intersection.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the two measured energy distributions are measured by different sampling modules.

28. The method of claim 16, wherein each detector has a capacitance that changes responsive to exposure to urine.

29. The method of claim 16, further comprising reporting the fluid distribution.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein reporting the fluid distribution includes indicating that the tested area is wetted and that a change is recommended.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein reporting the fluid distribution includes indicating that the tested area is wetted and that a change may be postponed.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein reporting the fluid distribution includes indicating that the tested area is dry and that a change may be postponed.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein reporting the fluid distribution includes indicating a number of dry regions.

34. A monitoring subsystem for assessing a fluid distribution of a test area serviced by a urine detection network, wherein the urine detection network has a net characteristic indicative of the fluid distribution of the test area, the monitoring subsystem comprising:

an inducer module configured to generate an energy field, wherein an energy field generated within an operative distance of the urine detection network establishes an energy distribution between the urine detection network and the monitoring subsystem that is predictably influenced by the net characteristic of the urine detection network; and

an analyzing module configured to determine the net characteristic of the urine detection network from the energy distribution.

35. The monitoring subsystem of claim 34, further comprising a sampling module configured to measure the energy distribution.

36. The monitoring subsystem of claim 35, wherein the sampling module is positionally fixed relative to the inducer module.

37. The monitoring subsystem of claim 35, wherein the analyzing module is configured to compare the measured energy distribution to a reference energy distribution.

38. The monitoring subsystem of claim 37, wherein the analyzing module is configured to find an intersection of the measured energy distribution and the reference energy distribution.

39. The monitoring subsystem of claim 37, wherein the analyzing module includes a memory, and wherein the reference energy distribution is stored in the memory.

40. The monitoring subsystem of claim 37, wherein the reference energy distribution corresponds to an energy distribution unaffected by a urine detection network and measured at the sampling module.

41. The monitoring subsystem of claim 37, wherein the analyzing module is configured to recognize interference by comparing the measured energy distribution to the reference energy distribution.

42. The monitoring subsystem of claim 41, wherein the analyzing module is configured to compensate for the interference.

43. The monitoring subsystem of claim 41, further comprising a notification module, wherein the notification module is configured to report that an environment is not suitable for detection if the interference cannot be compensated for.

44. The monitoring subsystem of claim 41, further comprising a notification module, wherein the notification module is configured to report that an environment is suitable for detection if an uncorrectable interference is not present.

45. The monitoring subsystem of claim 34, wherein the energy distribution is measured via the inducer module.

46. The monitoring subsystem of claim 34, wherein the analyzing module is configured to determine the net characteristic of the urine detection network by comparing two or more measured energy distributions measured at different times.

47. The monitoring subsystem of claim 34, further comprising a notification module configured to report a fluid distribution derived from the determined net characteristic.

48. A monitoring subsystem for assessing an energy-absorption pattern of an energy-converting module, the monitoring subsystem comprising:

an inducer module configured to establish an energy distribution between the energy-converting module and the monitoring subsystem;

a sampling module configured to measure the energy distribution;

an analyzing module configured to determine the energy-absorption pattern of the energy-converting module by comparing the measured energy distribution to a reference energy distribution.

49. The monitoring subsystem of claim 48, wherein the sampling module is positionally fixed relative to the inducer module.

50. The monitoring subsystem of claim 48, wherein the analyzing module is configured to find an intersection of the measured energy distribution and the reference energy distribution.

51. The monitoring subsystem of claim 50, wherein the analyzing module uses a frequency of the intersection to look up the energy-absorption pattern.

52. The monitoring subsystem of claim 50, wherein the analyzing module uses an angle of the intersection to look up the energy-absorption pattern.

53. The monitoring subsystem of claim 48, wherein the analyzing module is configured to determine the energy-absorption pattern of the energy-converting module by comparing the reference energy distribution and two or more measured energy distributions from different times.

54. The monitoring subsystem of claim 53, wherein the analyzing module is configured to determine the energy-absorption pattern of the energy-converting module by finding an intersection point of the two measured energy distributions.

55. The monitoring subsystems of claim 54, wherein the two measured energy distributions correspond to two different positions of the inducer module relative to the energy-converting module.

56. The monitoring system of claim 53, wherein the two measured energy distributions are measured by different sampling modules.

57. The monitoring subsystem of claim 48, wherein the reference energy distribution corresponds to an energy distribution unaffected by the energy-converting module and measured at the sampling module.

58. The monitoring subsystem of claim 48, further comprising a notification module configured to report the energy-absorption pattern.

59. A monitoring subsystem for assessing a fluid distribution of a test area serviced by a urine detection network, wherein the urine detection network has a net characteristic indicative of the fluid distribution of the test area, the monitoring subsystem comprising:

a connector configured to electrically couple to the urine detection network;

an analyzing module electrically coupled to the connector, wherein the analyzing module is configured to measure the net characteristic of the urine detection network via the connector; and

a notification module configured to report the fluid distribution derived from the measured net characteristic.

60. The monitoring subsystem of claim 59, wherein the net characteristic is capacitance.

61. A fluid detection system, comprising:

a fluid detection network that includes a plurality of detectors positioned to service a test area, wherein a characteristic of a detector predictably changes when the detector is exposed to a predetermined threshold of fluid, and wherein the fluid detection network has a net characteristic derived from the individual characteristics of the plurality of detectors; and

a monitoring subsystem configured to determine the net characteristic of the fluid detection network and to derive the fluid distribution from the net characteristic.

62. The fluid detection system of claim 61, wherein the monitoring subsystem is configured to directly measure the net characteristic via an electrical conductor.

63. The fluid detection system of claim 61, wherein the monitoring subsystem is configured to determine the net characteristic by wirelessly analyzing an energy distribution affected by the net characteristic.

64. The fluid detection system of claim 61, further comprising a signal generator configured to change a characteristic of a generated signal according to the net characteristic of the fluid detection network.

65. The fluid detection system of claim 64, wherein the monitoring subsystem is configured to receive the generated signal and to interpret the net characteristic from the signal.